

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 DODE-00 A-01 CPR-02 SY-05 USSS-00 NSCE-00
INRE-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /055 W
-----035634 122208Z /63

O 122118Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1361

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 2524

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO PANAMA

1. FORMIN CALDERON TELEPHONED MORNING OF JUNE 12 TO INQUIRE WHETHER EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED ANY NEW INFORMATION RE POSSIBILITY OF A SHORT BILATERAL MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND PRESIDENT CARAZO. CHARGE TOLD CALDERON THAT EMBASSY HAD ADVISED DEPARTMENT OF PRESIDENT CARAZO'S STRONG CONTINUING INTEREST IN A BILATERAL AND THAT DEPARTMENT HAD REPLIED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S SCHEDULE SIMPLY DOES NOT PERMIT TIME FOR BILATERALS. CALDERON WAS VERY DISTRUBED. HE SAID THAT PRESIDENT CARAZO NEEDED ONLY A FEW MINUTES WITH PRESIDENT CARTERJU HE SIAD THATYTARAZO DID NOT INTEND TO RAISE ISSUES OF SUBSTANCE WITH PRESIDENT CARTER BUT SOUGHT ONLY TO EXCHANGE PERSONAL GREETINGS WITH THE PRESIDENT, TO THANK THE PRESIDENT FOR MRS. CAJXER'S ATTENDANCE AT THE INAUGURATION, AND TO EXPRESS SATISFACTION OVER THE GENERAL STATE OF THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP AT THE OUTSET OF THE CARAZO ADMINISTRATION. CALDERON SAID HE COULD NOT BELIEVE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO FIND THE FIVE OR TEN MINUTES REQUIREDFOR SUCH A COURTESY VISIT.

2. CHARGE POINTED OUT AGAIN THAT WITH LIMITED TIME AVAILABLE AND NUMBER OF CHIEFS OF STATE INVOLVED, IT HAD
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SEEMED MORE APPROPRIATE AND USEFUL TO HAVE SUBSTANTIVE MULTILATERAL MEETINGS RATHER THAN SERIES OF BRIEF PRO FORMA BILATERALS BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND EACH OF THE OTHER ATTENDING CHIEFS OF STATE. CHARGE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN UNABLE TO ACCEDE TO OTHER COS REQUESTS FOR PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AND, ACCORDINGLY, IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY AWKWARD AND EMBARRASSING

FOR PRESIDENT CARTER TO MEET PRIVATELY ONLY WITH PRESIDENT CARAZO.

3. CALDERON REPLIED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE PROBLEM BUT HE STILL HELT IT NECESSARY TO REITERATE PRESIDENT CARAZO'S STRONG DESIRE FOR A SHORT PRIVATE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT

CARTER. CHARGE STATED THAT HE WOULD AGAIN RELAY REQUEST TO WASHINGTON EVEN THOUGH HE HAD NO REASON TO EXPECT A POSITIVE REPLY.

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